



# News Release

## PRESS OFFICE

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## ***SBA Hosts Mentor-Protégé Conference as part of MED Week 2010***

### ***10 Small Businesses vie for National Minority Small Business Person of the Year***

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration will host a mentor-protégé small business matchmaking session Aug. 23 just prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> annual National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week conference, which runs Aug. 25-27, 2010 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

During the mentor-protégé conference, small business owners can connect with mentors – virtually and face-to-face – and learn about government contracting, financial, technical and management assistance, as well as joint-venture opportunities.

The day-long conference will also include workshops on “*Succeeding in a Tough Construction Market*” and “*SBA Surety Bond*.” Small businesses interested in participating in the matchmaking events can register at [sba.mybusinessmatches.com](http://sba.mybusinessmatches.com). For more information on other MED Week workshops, or to register for the conference, visit [www.medweek.gov](http://www.medweek.gov).

MED Week is a collaboration with the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the SBA. The theme for this year’s MED Week event is “*Strategies for Growth and Competitiveness in the Global Economy*.” The conference will focus on helping minority small businesses expand their operations and establish a presence in the global marketplace through exporting.

Another event highlight will be the recognition of the National Minority Small Business Person of the Year. The national winner will be chosen from 10 regional winners representing Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, Michigan, Texas, Nebraska, Utah, California and Washington. Regional award winners have businesses that offer services ranging from environmental technology solutions to recruiting medical professionals who work for the military and other public institutions.

“This year’s MED Week event offers an opportunity to celebrate the positive impact minority small business owners have on their communities across the country as well as an opportunity for small businesses to learn critical tips for taking their business global,” said SBA Administrator Karen G. Mills.

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In addition to announcing the national minority small business award winner, SBA will present the SBA Administrator's Leadership award to Jeanette Brown of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. The 8(a) Graduate Firm of the Year award will be presented to Edward O. Watts, president of Watts Architecture & Engineering, P.C., of Buffalo, N.Y.

The 10 Regional Minority Small Business Persons of the Year are:

REGION I

Janet Ceddia, President  
Security Construction Services (SCS), Inc.  
Boston, Mass.

REGION VI

Veronica Edwards  
InGenesis, Inc.  
San Antonio, Texas

REGION II

Shandra Roberson  
S & W Contracting of Western New York, Inc.  
Buffalo, N.Y.

REGION VII

Lance G. Morgan  
All Native Services Company  
Winnnebago, Neb.

REGION III

Michael E. Melo  
ITA International, LLC  
Yorktown, Va.

REGION VIII

Denise Mitchell, Managing Member  
Advanced Solutions Group, LLC  
Kaysville, Utah

REGION IV

Melissa A. Leifheit  
Military & Federal Construction Company, Inc.  
Jacksonville, N.C.

REGION IX

Marty Rapozo, President  
Abide International  
Sonoma, Calif.

REGION V

Perry Mehta, President  
FutureNet Group, Inc.  
Detroit, Mich.

REGION X

Patrick L. Hughes  
Owner/Managing Member  
Hughes Group LLC  
Lakewood, Wash.

For more details on this year's MED Week conference, please visit [www.sba.gov/medweek2010](http://www.sba.gov/medweek2010), or [www.medweek.gov](http://www.medweek.gov).

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